

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Mark A. Smith et al.

Serial No.: 09/839,385

Filed: April 20, 2001

Docket No.: 10001074-1

Title: INK CONTAINER CONFIGURED TO ESTABLISH RELIABLE FLUIDIC CONNECTION TO A RECEIVING STATION

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container 12 and the fluid interconnect 36. The sealing material of the present invention can be used to seal defects present in the seal between the printhead 16 and the fluid interconnect 36 92.

IN THE CLAIMS

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Please cancel claim 9.

Please amend claims 1-5, 7, 10-12, 15, 16 and 20 as follows:

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1. (Amended) A replaceable ink container for providing ink to an inkjet printing system, the inkjet printing system having a receiving station for receiving the replaceable ink container, the receiving station having a fluid inlet and a sealing structure, the replaceable ink container comprising:

a reservoir defining a fluid outlet and a sealing surface proximate the fluid outlet; and
a sealing material contained within the reservoir for wetting the sealing surface, the sealing material including solid particles held in a suspension, solidification of the solid particles acting to seal defects between the sealing surface and the sealing structure.

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2. (Amended) The replaceable ink container of claim 1 wherein the solid particles are pigment particles.

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3. (Amended) The replaceable ink container of claim 1 wherein the solid particles are carbon black particles.

4. (Amended) The replaceable ink container of claim 1 wherein the suspension is a dispersant.

5. (Amended) The replaceable ink container of claim 1 wherein the sealing material contained within the reservoir is a quantity of ink.

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6. The replaceable ink container of claim 1 wherein the sealing surface is configured to be sufficiently wettable such that the sealing surface is wet by the sealing material.

7. (Amended) A method for forming a seal between a replaceable ink container and a sealing structure, the method comprising:

wetting a sealing surface on the replaceable ink container with a sealing material defined by solid particles held in a suspension which is contained within the replaceable ink container;

engaging the sealing surface with a sealing structure whereby the sealing material is disposed there between; and

solidifying the sealing material so that the solid particles fall out of the suspension and seal defects between the sealing surface and the sealing structure.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the sealing material is an ink contained within the replaceable ink container.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Amended) A replaceable ink container for providing ink to an inkjet printing system, the inkjet printing system having a receiving station for receiving the replaceable ink container, the receiving station having a fluid inlet and a sealing structure, the replaceable ink container comprising:

a storage reservoir having a capillary storage material disposed therein for retaining ink, the storage reservoir defining a fluid outlet and a sealing surface proximate the fluid outlet; and

an ink retained within the capillary storage material, the ink having particles suspended therein, the particles solidifying on the sealing surface to seal defects between the sealing surface and the sealing structure.

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11. (Amended) The replaceable ink container of claim 10 wherein the particles are pigment particles.

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12. (Amended) The replaceable ink container of claim 10 wherein the particles are carbon black particles.

13. The replaceable ink container of claim 10 wherein the ink further includes a dispersant.

14. The replaceable ink container of claim 10 wherein the sealing surface proximate the fluid outlet is configured to be wetted by the ink stored within the ink container.

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15. (Amended) The replaceable ink container of claim 10 wherein the sealing surface is configured for enhanced wettability such that the sealing surface is wet by the ink.

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16. (Amended) A replaceable printing component for an inkjet printing system configured for receiving the replaceable printing component, the inkjet printing system having a fluid inlet and a sealing structure, the replaceable printing component comprising:
a sealing surface configured for engaging a corresponding sealing structure on the inkjet printing system; and
wherein the sealing surface is configured so that sealing material, defined by solid particles held in a suspension, wets the sealing surface so that solidification of the solid particles seals defects between the sealing surface and the corresponding sealing structure.

17. The replaceable printing component of claim 16 wherein the replaceable printing component is a replaceable ink container.

18. The replaceable printing component of claim 16 wherein the replaceable printing component is a replaceable printhead.

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19. The replaceable printing component of claim 16 wherein sealing material is pigmented ink.

20. (Amended) The replaceable printing component of claim 16 wherein the sealing surface engages the corresponding sealing structure on the inkjet printing system to form a face seal.

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